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PATENT
CASE NAME/No.: SP01-208

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Yijia Bao et al.

Serial No: 09/925,808

Art Group Unit: 1634

Filing Date: August 9, 2001

Examiner: Ethan C. Whisenant

Title: TREATMENT OF
SUBSTRATES FOR
IMMOBILIZING
BIOMOLECULES

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In the Office Action dated August 9, 2002, designated as Paper No. 6 in the above-captioned application, the Examiner issued a Restriction Requirement identifying the following groups of claims as being drawn to potentially distinct inventions:

- Group I. Claims 1 - 7, drawn to a method of immobilizing biomolecules on a surface of a substrate, as well as, the substrate made thereby, classified in class 435, subclass 6;
- Group II. Claims 8 - 18, drawn to a method of reducing autofluorescence of a substrate comprising an array of biomolecules, as well as, the substrate made thereby, classified in class 435, subclass 6; and
- Group III. Claims 19 - 23, drawn to a method of eliminating autofluorescence from a substrate coated with a silane, classified in class 435, subclass 6.

The Examiner asserted that these inventions may be regarded as independent and distinct from one another because Inventions I, II and III are distinct methods with different goals, different intermediate steps and different end results. The Examiner notes, for example, that Groups I and II are distinct methods with different goals and different intermediate steps.

The Examiner states that because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the necessity for non-coextensive patent/literature searches, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

A provisional election to Group II, claims 8-18 is made without traverse.

As a formality, Applicants hereby cancel claims 1-7 and 19-23, without prejudice.